(ii) Any specific request for extration of fugitive criminals, suspected to be in any foreign country including Gulf countries, is pursued by our Missions abroad with the local authorities at the appropriate levels. The normal procedure for extradition involves both an administrative and judicial process in the requested country as per the local laws and there is no time limit for completion for this process.

Posting of Passport Offices Employees Abroad

2362. SHRI C. O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any demand from the employees of Passport Offices for their posting in the Indian Missions abroad; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government in this regard alongwith reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) and (b) While there is a demand from the employees of the Passport Offices for postings in Indian Missions abroad, postings are not given to these employees since there are no posts in Indian Missions abroad borne on the strength of Central Passport Organisation.

Strategic Alliance Between India, Russia and China

2363. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether following months of U.S. led NATO bombings on Yugoslavia and the bombing of Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in May this year, any moves were made to forge a strategic alliance between India, Russia and China; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard indicating the outcome of bilateral or trilateral talks, if any, held in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) Our relations with the Russian Federation are time-tested and characterised by continuity, trust and mutual under-